

# **WRIA 1 Joint Technical Advisory Group Technical Review of SRFB 2001 Projects Addendum Nov. 19, 2001**

## **Members Present**

Alan Chapman, Lummi Natural Resources  
Ned Currence, Nooksack Indian Tribe  
Clare Fogelsong, City of Bellingham (intermittent)  
Michael Maudlin, Lummi Natural Resources  
Roger Nichols, USDA Forest Service  
Steve Seymour, WA Department of Fish & Wildlife  
John Thompson, Whatcom County  
Paula Cooper, Whatcom County

## **Process**

After the Joint Technical Advisory Group (JTAG) and the Citizen's Habitat Committee (CHC) ranked WRIA 1 projects using the Ranking Matrix from the *Salmon Habitat Recovery Project Prioritization Strategy for WRIA 1* (Version 1.1, September 2001, Attachment B), the Lead Entity requested that the Joint Board consider re-convening the JTAG to more fully discuss information regarding two projects (Middle Fork Ladder Design and Acme/Saxon Instream Restoration Project Phase 1). The Joint Board decided that one of the two projects warranted further discussion (Acme/Saxon Instream Restoration Project Phase 1), and JTAG met the afternoon of Nov. 19 to do so.

## **Discussion of Acme/Saxon Phase I Instream Restoration Project**

The JTAG discussed the proposed project, and agreed in principal that the minor proposal re-wording that the applicant freely offered, appear to address the concerns that were raised to the Lead Entity. The offered re-wordings specifically encompass: 1) clarifying the project sponsors and what they support; 2) clarifying the steps that will lead to identification of specific project sites and designs; 3) clarifying who will be involved in reviewing and providing feedback on the designs (including the Acme Saxon working group); and 4) briefly mentioning that this project, while stand alone, is likely to be a component of a larger restoration effort in the Acme to Saxon reach of the South Fork Nooksack.

The applicant clarified that the proposed project was originally submitted with anticipation that the reach analysis and data analysis would support more specific project locations and designs. The applicant subsequently determined that this reach analysis, while funded and ongoing, will need further development and refinement prior to determining specific project designs. Concerns that were raised centered around the appearance of having "the cart before the horse", but discussion again returned to the experience of the applicant (Lummi Nation) in successfully constructing large scale projects, the qualifications of the consultant

(Tracy Drury of GeoEngineers) in designing large scale projects, and the breadth of expertise and commitment to restoration of this reach by the Acme Saxon working group.

The proposed timelines were also discussed, most specifically the ambitious schedule of having project design completed and all permits by the end of 2002. There was less concern regarding the proposed scheduled construction in summer 2003. The group also discussed the fact that this project is similar to other proposed instream projects in lacking detailed site maps and designs at this stage, so it is important to consider the reputation of the project applicant, the parties involved, and the strength of the analyses that are either proposed or already underway.

The JTAG did not generally believe that this further discussion was substantially different than that captured in the meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 1, and in the notes from that discussion which were forwarded to the CHC. As such, after discussion, JTAG did not modify the previous overall scoring matrix ranking, the benefits to species determination, or the certainty of success determination. The JTAG did believe that the applicant's proposed changes will strengthen the SRFB proposal.